

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Wenas Elk Fence Replacement

2. Name of applicant:

Washington State Fish and Wildlife

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Cindy Knudsen – Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA. 98501
(360) 902 8422
Cindy.knudsen@wdfw.wa.gov

4. Date checklist prepared:

January 7, 2014

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington State Fish and Wildlife

6.

Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Winter, 2014 – Spring 2014 (January – May)

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

NHPA Section 106 consultation with the Yakama Nation and Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) will be done for the Wenas Elk Fence replacement project. An HPA will be obtained.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

An HPA will be obtained for this project.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

This project will allow for the complete demolition and replacement of approximately 3.76 miles of 8' high cross-country damaged elk drift fence. The fence will be built in three sections; Kelley-BelTel (priority 1) at 1.01 miles, Mellotte (priority 2), at 1.14 miles, and Kelley Gate (priority 3) at 1.61 miles. Previously the fence was constructed of wood post and typical wire mesh. The old wood posts will be cut off at ground level, removed from the site and disposed of. The new steel post (2 7/8 inches outside diameter in 11 foot lengths) will be constructed by positioning the steel posts at least 6 inches away from the damaged wood post. The fence posts will be mechanically impact driven with typical wire mesh fencing installed to match the adjoining sections. Drilling may be required to set a small portion of fence posts in the BelTel section of the project. Any fence gate posts installed will be cemented in.

At two points, the fencing crosses Wenas Creek in the Mellotte-Hoover Gate section. At no time will any equipment enter the water. All access will be gained from access roads as indicated on the permit drawings. Elk fencing will be placed on either side of Wenas Creek and wire will be stretched across the creek. No fence posts will be driven into Wenas Creek.

Old fence sections deemed to have salvage value will be selected by WDFW staff and will be recovered and stored at a department facility for later use by the agency. All materials but wire mesh hangers shall be furnished by the contractor. Wire mesh hangers will be supplied by WDFW. Access to this project shall be

limited to WDFW owned or controlled properties only. All work to be performed shall be in accordance with all local, state and federal codes laws and in accordance with permit guidelines.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

There are three locations for this project:

Bel Tel: 46.811053,-120.61476, – 46.796479,-120.614458 entirely within (T 15 N R 18 E S 07). Length of fence 1.01 miles.

Mellotte-Hoover Gate: 46.829772,-120.709165 – 46.838836,-120.723557 (T16 N R 17 E S 39 through T 16 N R 17 E S 32) 1.14 miles

Kelley Gate: 46.811225,-120.633753 – 46.811154,-120.65732 (T 15N R 18 E S 07 – T 15 N, R 17 E S 12) 1.61 miles

The **Bel Tel** gate is accessed by taking Interstate 82 to the WA-821 N. Exit (Exit 26) toward WA-823/Canyon Road Selah. Turn right onto WA-82 firing Center Road. Take the first left onto Harrison Rd/WA 823. Turn right onto North Wenas Road and travel 4.8 miles to Sheep Company Road. Turn right to Sheep Company Road (unpaved after 1st mile), then left onto BelTel Road for approximately 2.5 miles. The project access is closest to 46.767548,-120.61523.

The **Mellotte** Elk Fence portion of the project is reached by taking US-12 and taking a right to stay on US-12. Turn right on Allan Road. Allan Road becomes Naches-Wenas Road. Take slight left onto Longmire Ln. Turn left onto North Wenas Road and continue on it for 5.2 miles to job site. The project access is close to 46.829772,-120.709165.

The **Kelley Gate** portion of the project can be accessed by taking a right to stay on US-12. Turn right on Allan Road. Allan Road becomes Naches-Wenas Road. Turn slight left onto Longmire Lane. Turn left onto N. Wenas Road. Turn right onto Kelley Hollow Road (unpaved). Travel approximately .15 mile to Kelley Gate. The project access is closest to 46.811225,-120.633753).

The majority of the Wenas Wildlife area is comprised of shrub-steppe habitat. The topography varies, with some steep slopes and mountainous areas near the proposed fencing section at the Kelley BelTel and Kelley Gate sections.

The attached permit drawings indicate fencing routes along these lines and a general location of the flood plain in the Mellotte elk fence portion of the project. The other fencing project areas are not in the 100 year floodplain.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other.

The majority of the Wenas Wildlife area is comprised of shrub-steppe habitat. The topography varies, with some steep slopes and mountainous areas at and near the proposed fencing section at the Kelley BelTel and Kelley Gate sections.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Typical soils in all three job areas have a steepest slope gradient of about 15%.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)?
If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

Mellotte soils are primarily Wenas and Logy soils throughout the project site.

BelTel soils are primarily McDaniel very stony loam; Rock Creek very stony silt loam, and Roza clay loam throughout the project site.

Kelly Gate soils are primarily Rock Creek very stony loam, Rock Creek very stony silt, McDaniel very stony Loam, Taneum Loam, and Cleaman very fine sandy loam throughout the project site.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

No.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed.
Indicate source of fill.

Posts will be impact driven; no other proposed filling or grading is proposed. Some drilling may be needed to set fence posts in a small portion of the Bel Tel section of the elk fence project. Fence gate posts will be cemented in.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

No. Any disturbed soils will be reseeded with native grasses.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

None.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

None.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, and industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

No emissions will emanate from the elk fence.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

None.

3. Water

3a. Surface:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Wenas Creek is in the immediate vicinity of the Mellotte Elk Fence portion of the project. Wenas Creek flows into the Yakima River.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Two portions of the Mellotte Elk Fence portion of this project will be over Wenas Creek. The attached plans include illustrations of typical small and large draw fence sections that will be installed over Wenas Creek.

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

No fill or dredge materials will be placed in or removed from surface waters or wetlands.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

This proposal will not require surface water withdrawals or diversions.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

Only the Mellotte elk fence portion of this project is within the 100 year flood plain. The FEMA Firm map for this area (53077C0500D) is attached.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No, this project will not involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters.

b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No ground water will be withdrawn as a result of this project. No water will be discharged into ground water.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example:
Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals . . . ; agricultural; etc.).
Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses

to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

No waste materials will be discharged into the ground from any source as a result of this project.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Runoff from the elk fencing will follow natural typical drainage patterns, eventually entering Wenas Lake and the Yakima River.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No. Best management practices will be used to prevent waste materials from entering ground or surface waters.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

Work will be conducted in conditions where surface flows are low in the winter, through higher flows in spring during April-May runoff in Wenas Creek. Straw, silt fence will be used as necessary to prevent construction runoff.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

- ☒ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- ☒ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- ☒ shrubs
- ☒ grass
- ☐ pasture
- ☐ crop or grain
- ☐ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- ☐ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- ☐ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

On the east end of the Mellotte fence, there is thick riparian habitat. Hand work is proposed in this area to avoid impacts to vegetation. Some vegetation will need pruning to allow access for equipment for the installation of posts and wire. Some trees may be removed for equipment access however any trees removed will be left on site for habitat. Roots will be maintained on site and shrubs should re sprout. In the other project sites, no vegetation will be removed. Any bare soil caused by construction activities will be reseeded.

- c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None are known.

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Any bare soil will be reseeded with native grasses after posts are installed to prevent erosion. Very little vegetation will be removed as a part of this project.

5. Animals

- a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None are known.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Elk migrate through the area.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

The project is located in the Wenas Wildlife Area. The elk fence controls movement of elk onto private agricultural fields. In addition, the replacement elk fencing protects the shrub steppe habitat against trespass livestock grazing and vehicular traffic that reduce the herbaceous cover used for nesting and foraging and prevents disturbance of wildlife. The replacement elk fence also protects against the spread of undesirable weedy vegetation. The elk fence will prevent cattle from entering the wildlife area. This will increase the amount of forage available to other wildlife, including elk.

6. Energy and natural resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Once completed, this project will not require any type of energy.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

This project will not affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None are proposed.

7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

Equipment fluids could pose a potential source of environmental contamination.

- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None are known.

- 2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Follow BMPs when refueling and maintain equipment including use of on-site spill kits, refueling in designated or approved areas only, and keeping equipment in good working order.

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Equipment and staff will be the only sources of noise. This is a remote area with no adjacent buildings or residences.

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

The only noise will be equipment operation noise during project implementation. Hours of operation are usually 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

None.

8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

This elk fence is being installed at the Wenas Wildlife Area. Adjacent properties are rural, agricultural, and with few neighboring residences.

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Livestock grazing in this area ended more than 25 years ago.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

There are no structures on any of the three sites, however there is a barn within 100 feet of the Mellotte fence replacement site.

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No structures will be demolished. Only the old elk fence will be replaced.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

RLDP

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Future Land Use Designation: Rural Remote (Yakima County Plan 215).

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

N/A.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

This site has not been classified as an environmentally sensitive area.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

No persons would reside at the completed project.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

No people will be displaced as a result of the completed project.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

No measures are proposed.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

The project is located in the Wenas Wildlife Area. All components of the replacement elk fencing protect the shrub steppe habitat against trespass livestock grazing and vehicular traffic that reduce the herbaceous cover used for nesting and foraging and prevents disturbance of wildlife. The replacement elk fence also protects against the spread of undesirable weedy vegetation, and in controlling movement of elk onto private agricultural fields.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

No housing units will be provided.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

No housing units will be eliminated.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:
None.

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

The elk fence is 8 feet 6 inches at the highest fence top points.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?
No views will be altered or obstructed.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:
No measures are proposed to control aesthetic impacts.

11. Light and glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?
No light or glare will be produced from the elk fence.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?
No.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?
None.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:
None.

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?
Outdoor activities include fishing, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, Nordic skiing and snowshoeing, target shooting/trapshooting/archery, and wildlife viewing.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No recreational uses will be changed as a result of the elk fence installation.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

No measures are proposed to reduce or control impacts on recreation.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

None are known.

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

None are known.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

Although unlikely, if artifacts are found during construction, all construction activities will stop and Washington State Department of Archeology and Historic Protection (DAHP) (360 586 3065) will be notified.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Access to the site is gained by public roads (N. Wenas Road) and WDFW access roads into the sites.

- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

The nearest public transit stop is unknown.

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

None.

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No.

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

None.

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

None.

15. Public services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

None are proposed.

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

Electricity, well water and a septic system are in place at Mellotte barn.

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

None.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Cynthia Knudson

Date Submitted: 1/7/2014